

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 13, 2004

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director

**FROM:** R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending August 13, 2004

A. Wet Chemistry Startup. During another attempt to startup the Secondary Extraction system (see site rep. reports of July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup>) an operational issue led personnel to determine that a vent path was blocked by a plate installed between piping flanges. This vent path is credited in the applicable authorization basis to prevent certain chemical reactions and is also a feature credited for criticality safety purposes. Investigation of the cause(s) for this event is in progress. As a result of this discovery, all enriched uranium solution processing operations have been stopped. An effort has been started to validate that the numerous safety-related vent paths in wet chemistry systems are functional.

As reported July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Denitrator system was operated following a series of startup attempts and engineering problems. Based on this one run, BWXT has released the Denitrator system from all "first use" startup controls (added management and technical oversight during the run). The site reps. inquired with YSO management on removing the startup controls after just one run for those systems that have experienced such startup problems. YSO management indicated that they will address the issue.

B. Oxide Conversion Facility. BWXT started their line management Performance Self-Assessment (operational demonstrations, interviews, etc.) on Monday. Results of the integrated run demonstration conducted this week (an integrated run occurs over several shifts) were under review by line management. It is noted, however, that due to various equipment problems and process/procedural changes, no prior integrated run attempts had yet been considered adequate by BWXT for readiness demonstration purposes.

C. Skull Oxide Calciner Deactivation. Following site rep. discussions on the state of readiness and scope issues with site management, BWXT formally stopped the Readiness Assessment (RA) for the deactivation of the Skull Oxide Calciner. The scope of the RA is being revised to include activities that are integral to performing this deactivation (e.g., drilling and rigging contaminated duct work). In addition, facility personnel are in the process of returning a hood to service. This hood and associated ventilation system will be used during the cut-up of several contaminated filters. BWXT believes the facility will be ready to restart this RA in a couple of weeks.

D. Corporate Integrated Safety Management System Review. This week, BWXT began their two week corporate assessment of the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) at Y-12. Security issues and training have limited the team's ability to observe work performance this week; however, this is not expected to impact activities next week. The more significant issues identified to date include the following: inadequate job hazard analysis (e.g., tailoring the automated job hazard analysis to specific work activities); and procedure compliance (e.g, skipping procedural steps). The corporate assessment will continue next week and the team plans to discuss their findings next Friday.

cc

Board Members